



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Patrick O. O'Leary

Group Art Unit: 1723

Application No.: 10/756,994

Examiner: T. Cecil

Filed: January 15, 2004

Docket No.: 001

For: FUEL FILTER WITH VALVE INDICATOR

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

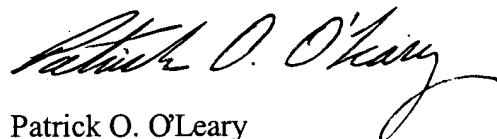
Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement forwarded by the Office Action dated June 16, 2006, the Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-14. This election is made with traverse.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of both groups is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of one group would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining group. In particular, as noted in the Restriction Requirement, Groups I and II are in the same class. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. MPEP§ 803 states, "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added.) It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the applicant and duplicative examination by the patent office.

The examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick O. O'Leary".

Patrick O. O'Leary

Date: July 7, 2006

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